

REMARKS

Claims 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Nielsen U. S. Patent No. 6,108,688; hereinafter Nielsen.

It is clear from the specification and the claims that the applicant's method is about a sending a request to perform a task by users at one or more receivers with a deadline, recording that request and deadline and automatically setting up a follow-up reminder at the sender location to determine if a request has been completed by the deadline, sending the request with the deadline to the receivers and receiving the request and deadline at the receivers and when the task is completed the sender is notified and recorded. The term "request" refers to a request to do some task. To determine if a request is completed refers to a completion of the task. The follow-up refers to follow-up of completion of the task. For some unknown reason the examiner's rejection is relying on a reference (Nielsen) that has nothing to do with this. The applicant has herein amended the claims to emphasize that the method has to do with determining if a requested task has been completed by a user at one or more of the receivers and a follow-up of that requested task. Applicant is claiming the same subject matter but is amending the claim to emphasize that the request is to perform a task by a user at the one or more receivers and the follow-up refers to a task. It is believed that the original claims make this clear but somehow this has been missed by the new examiner. The Nielsen reference is about warning a sender that a message has not been opened by a deadline. This has nothing to do with what applicant has been claiming with respect to an automated follow-up to a requested task to be done and notifying the sender when the requested task has been completed. Claim 1, as amended, calls for "a method for automated follow-up of a request comprising the steps of generating a request of a task to be completed by users at one or more receivers with a deadline at a sender location and recording that request at the sender location indicating deadline and automatically setting up a follow-up reminder at the sender location to determine if a request has been completed by the deadline; sending that request with a deadline message to said one or more receivers; receiving said request and deadline at the one or more receivers; determining at the receivers when the

requested task is done; and sending a done notice to sender when requested task is completed and said done notice is recorded at the sender location..” This is not taught or suggested by the Nielsen reference that is about warning a sender of a message that the receiver has not opened the mail in time. Claim 1, as amended, is deemed allowable over Nielsen.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohgushi et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,760,753; hereinafter Ohgushi). Again this reference has to determining if an e-mail message has been received and does not have anything to do with the claimed determining if a requested task has been completed by a user at the receiver and a follow-up of that request. This reference discusses automatically determining whether a reply to email has been received and automatically transmitting a reply demand after a predetermined time limit. See, for example, claim 1 of the reference. The examiner references Fig. 1 but that Figure only shows transmission verifying means. The examiner’s references do not apply since they only refer to e-mail being received and have nothing to do with a request or task being completed and the follow-up of that task.

Claim 2 further calls for “said sender determines if a done notice is received and request is completed before said deadline and generates a message to said one or more receivers if it has not been completed and the done notice has not been received by the deadline date.” . The reference does not teach anything about a follow-up message about an assigned task. Claim 3 further calls for the sender automatically sending a message to said one or more receivers if a deadline date has not been met. No such automatic sending of a follow-up message about a task is taught or suggested in the reference.

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Ohgushi in view of U.S. 6,216,169 to Booman et al (hereinafter Booman). It is not seen where the Booman reference has or teaches the follow-up at the sender location so the sender can follow-up if the sender does not receive a response from the receiver. Without this follow-up the sender may forget to remind the receiver or set a second deadline in

time. The Booman reference does mention at Col. 8, lines 54-66 prompting the network manager to input parameters specific to the selected report. It mentions the input parameters may include a time period for the report (report on data from the previous week) but does not teach or suggest a follow-up reminder for the sender. This is a critical and important parameter for applicant's follow-up method. There is nothing in the references to suggest the combination of these references.

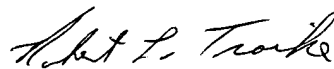
Claim 4 further calls for "said sender also automatically sends a second deadline date with a second message if a deadline has not been met and sets a second follow-up reminder."

Claim 5 further calls for "said sender determines if a done request is completed and a done notice has been received before said second deadline and generates a message to said one or more receivers if it has not been completed by the second deadline date."

In view of the above applicant's claims 1-5, as amended, are deemed allowable and an early notice of allowance of these claims is deemed in order and is respectfully requested.

If the examiner persists in the rejection, applicant respectfully requests this amendment be entered for purposes of appeal.

Respectfully submitted;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert L. Troike".

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